

STILL IN THE RACE

By Steve Hale

Cot Campbell came home to Aiken, SC, from the 2004 Kentucky Derby with a fourth-place check and the satisfaction of a race well run.

Limehouse (named after a 1920s Dixieland jazz song), is Campbell's seventh Derby entry from Aiken's Dogwood Stable. They finished third with Impeachment in 2000, and second with Summer Squall in 1990, two weeks before "The Squall" won the Preakness trophy that sits in the entrance foyer of Cot and Anne's beautiful York Street home.

You haven't met a man like Cot Campbell, because there isn't one.

Like the Renaissance man of an earlier time, Campbell continues to redefine himself, reaching beyond the successful comfort of his immediate world, to excel in other realms, and to conquer new challenges.

The release of his second book, *Rascals and Racehorses, A Sporting Man's Life*, in the fall of 2002 clearly establishes his grip on his latest career, that of a popular author. It followed the highly successful 2000 publication of *Lightning in a Jar*. Both books chronicle the extraordinary characters and events he's found in the wide-open world of Thoroughbred horse racing.

A complex man with a straightforward manner, Campbell has made a serious career out of having fun.

His early life experiences ran a zigzag pattern. Once a sports writer and a radio producer, in other jobs he parked cars at a night club, sold tires, was an apprentice mortician, worked for the Florida Citrus Commission and was the Master of Ceremonies for a show at Cyprus Gardens in Florida.

After a serious talk with himself at age 31, Campbell began to make a go of things, rising to chairman of Burton-Campbell, Inc., in Atlanta, one of the South's largest advertising agencies.

But at the peak of that career, Cot and Anne bet it all on a remarkable idea—selling limited partnerships in racehorses. Now, 30 years later, Thoroughbred Hall of Fame trainer D.

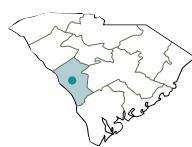
Wayne Lukas wrote in the introduction of *Lightening in a Jar* that Campbell has had "one of the most successful careers of any entrepreneur in our business."

Indeed, Campbell and Dogwood have had a fabled run in the Thoroughbred business. They won their first stakes (major) race with Mrs. Cornwallis in the Alcibiades at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Ky., in 1971. They have won two Eclipse Awards, horse racing's Oscar equivalent. Inlander was top Steeplechase Horse of the Year in 1987 after winning the Colonial Cup in Camden, SC, and Summer Squall's daughter, Storm Song, was two-year-old Juvenile Filly of the Year after winning the Breeder's Cup in 1996.

Dogwood's distinctive yellow polka dots on green silks are a prominent part of the action at the annual races in Aiken and Camden, two towns with century-old traditions of Thoroughbred training. The brilliantly pedigreed racers often dominate the Trials, the first leg of Aiken's Triple Crown races, held at the mile-long Aiken Training Track. The stable occasionally runs a jumper in the hugely popular Steeplechase, where as many as 30,000 brightly dressed partygoers gather under the big tent for dancing and dining during one of the great social events of the year. Other activities capping the races, scheduled March 19 & 26 and April 2, 2005, include breakfasts, parties, tailgate picnics and balls. Dogwood horses are less frequent participants in Camden's Carolina Cup and Colonial Cup races, set for April 2 and Nov. 20, 2005, respectively.

Spring and fall in South Carolina—when the weather is perfect and the horse racing is a grand tradition anyone can enjoy.

And back in Aiken, what does Campbell want to do next at age 75? With that square jaw and burning twinkle in his eyes, he didn't hesitate a moment, "Win the Kentucky Derby. That would be a fine thing to do!"



Find out more...

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